

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 NEA-10 /094 W

-----180723Z 075532 /22

R 171125Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4547

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISIO 0074

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, UR

SUBJ: SOMALI CONCERN OVER SOVIET MILITARY TIES WITH ETHIOPIA

1. PAST FEW MONTHS HAS WITNESSED SPATE OF RUMORS CONCERNING SOMALI DISCONFITURE OVER SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA. MOST RECENT

OF THESE IS A REPORT THAT BRIGADIER GENERAL BORISOV GRIGORE GREGORIEV GREGORIEVIC, WHO WAS THE CHIEF SOVIET MILITARY ADVISER IN SOMALIA UNTIL HIS TRANSFER LAST SUMMER, HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO ADDIS ABABA, PRESUMABLY TO FILL A SIMILAR FUNCTION, THOUGH WE ARE NOT CERTAIN ON THIS POINT. GREGORIEVIC'S POSTING REPORTEDLY IS UNSETTLING TO SOMALI MILITARY LEADERS BECAUSE HE KNOWS SDR'S MILITARY PLANS AND POSSIBILITIES AND HE WOULD BE IN POSITION TO IMPORT THIS INFORMATION TO THE ETHIOPIANS.

2. USUALLY RELIABLE FSL SOURCE REPORTS THAT HIS CONTACTS IN SOMALI  
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MILITARY ARE ALSO UPSET BY ALLEGED HALT IN SOVIET SUPPLY OF HEAVY WEAPONRY TO SDR. MOSCOW REPORTEDLY IS ARGUING THAT, SINCE ETHIOPIA IS NOW A FRIENDLY SOCIALIST STATE, SOMALIA NO LONGER NEEDS SUCH EQUIPMENT. FSL SOURCE GOES ON TO STATE THAT WHEREAS, BEFORE, SOVIETS SUPPLIED SOMALI MILITARY'S POL REQUIREMENTS GRATIS, MOSCOW IS NOW DEMANDING CASH PAYMENT.

3. TO COUNTER REPORTED SOVIET MILITARY SQUEEZE, GSDR IS SAID TO BE ATTEMPTING TO BROADEN SOURCES OF ARMS AND POL SUPPLY. FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMED ALI SAMANTAR'S VISIT TO BELGRADE WAS SEEN BY SOME HERE AS AN ATTEMPT TO PROCURE WEAPONS, THOUGH WE CANNOT VERIFY THAT INTERPRETATION. IN ADDITION, GSDR IS SAID TO HAVE CONTACTED TURKEY AND INDIA IN ATTEMPTS TO SECURE ARMS AND TO HAVE APPROACHED IRAQ TO PICK UP THE TAB FOR SOMALI MILITARY'S POL NEEDS.

4. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THESE SOMALI APPROACHES WERE SUCCESSFUL OR EVEN, FOR CERTAIN, THAT THEY WERE MADE. HOWEVER, IT IS REASONABLE TO CONCLUDE THAT SOMALIS ARE INDEED, CONCERNED OVER WHAT THEY SEE AS POSSIBLE SOVIET DOUBLE-DEALING IN THE HORN.

5. ADDRESSEES' COMMENTS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED. CAN EMBASSY ADDIS VERIFY THE REPORT ON GREGORIEVIC? JACOBS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009